

within the Wolesi Jirga, it is important to note that Mr. Kazemi was in fact, if not the paramount leader, one of the top leaders in bringing these very diverse groups together.

□ 1345

Now, this delegation was in the Baghlan province doing their work, as we as Members of the House of Representatives do our work when we have delegations going to visit and work on different projects. This was the Economics Commission. As Mr. PRICE said, we had seen Mr. Kazemi as the head of the Economics Commission in the past. These were members of the Wolesi Jirga, parliamentarians just as we are, working on the project of trying to bring about greater reform and success to the people of Afghanistan. And to have them attacked in such a way is something that will in fact go down in history.

My friend from North Carolina said this was the worst attack to take place since the Taliban has come to power. Mr. Speaker, just today the British Broadcasting Corporation reported that the attack on November 6 was the single worst attack and the largest loss of life in the history of Afghanistan. Never before has such a large number of people been killed in an attack such as this.

So that is why I am very pleased that Mr. PRICE asked me to join with him working on this resolution. That is why we stand together, Democrats and Republicans, reaffirming our commitment to the future of Afghanistan. We know it was September 11 of 2001 and the attacks that emerged from Osama bin Laden and the Taliban, support for that effort, and al Qaeda that led to the work that we have done in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, we remain committed. Our resolve is in fact strengthened by this tragedy. I urge my colleagues to join in support of this resolution.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I deeply appreciate the remarks of my good friend and colleague from California and also the author of this legislation. Truly, I echo his sentiments. This is bipartisan proposed legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Does my colleague from Florida have any further speakers?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 811, Condemning the November 6, 2007, terrorist bombing in Afghanistan and expressing condolences to the people of Afghanistan and the members of the Wolesi Jirga, introduced by my distinguished colleague from North Carolina, Representative DAVID PRICE. As we all know, the situation in Afghanistan is critical, and it is essential that we maintain and strengthen our support of Afghanistan for the sake of the Afghan people and our own national security.

Mr. Speaker, it was almost exactly 6 years ago that, in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the United States launched a military operation against Afghanistan, with the intent

to capture Osama bin Laden, to destroy the al-Qaeda terrorist network, and to remove the Taliban regime that had provided support and safe harbor for al-Qaeda. Though the Taliban has been removed from power, they have since regrouped and are an increasingly resurgent force, while al-Qaeda remains a significant threat and Osama bin Laden continues to evade capture.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan continues to suffer from the chronic instability that has plagued the nation for much of its modern history. Its infrastructure and economy have been devastated by decades of conflict, the fledgling democratic government continues to face a very real threat from the resurgent Taliban, and the people of Afghanistan continue to live in a climate of ongoing turmoil, particularly in the southern regions of the country, where there are ongoing and dangerous clashes between coalition-led forces and insurgents.

This most recent attack that occurred on November 6, 2007 was the deadliest suicide attack since the liberation of Afghanistan from the Taliban in 2001. This attack deliberately targeted the members of the Wolesi Jirga, the directly elected chamber of the National Assembly of Afghanistan, which transcended political, regional, and ethnic divisions within this war-torn nation. The suicide attack killed at least 6 members of the Wolesi Jirga as well as at least 50 Afghan citizens, including women and children, and wounded dozens of others.

Mr. Speaker, it is essential that we provide considerable aid for Afghanistan, a region which we have consistently underfunded despite its critical needs. While we have thrown away billions of taxpayers' dollars in Iraq, the real security threat of Afghanistan, home to the al-Qaeda and the Taliban, has gone relatively unchecked. This is a problem not simply for the United States to handle, but for NATO. We must work with our NATO allies to put increased pressure on them to step up to the task of addressing the most serious security issues. Security is essential to not only economic growth but also makes it easier for humanitarian organizations to accomplish their tasks. Creating a stable security situation in Afghanistan is an international concern.

Furthermore, trends of opium production in Afghanistan have changed. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), "opium cultivation in Afghanistan is no longer associated with poverty." This is largely due to the fact that the poorer northern provinces are seeing a downward trend in poppy cultivation, while production and trafficking are growing in the eastern and southern provinces. As these are the areas of the country currently experiencing the greatest amount of conflict, UNODC now associates the opiate trade with insurgency. According to UNODC, the Taliban have "started to extract from the drug economy resources for arms, logistics, and militia pay." This horrific attack may be directly linked to poppy cultivation and opium production, which has as of late been used to directly "support, sustain, and finance insurgents, militias, and terrorist organizations operating in Afghanistan."

In the 110th Congress, we have already passed important legislation that, I believe, will help promote peace and freedom in Afghanistan. However, it is necessary for us to continue to work together with the Afghan government and other members of the international

community to address the outstanding challenges that continue to threaten the nation. As stated in this legislation, the United States must reaffirm its long-term commitment to Afghanistan, "to the establishment of security, the strengthening of democratic and civil institutions, and the promotion of economic opportunity as the basis for a stable, secure, and democratic Afghanistan."

The security and stability of Afghanistan is crucial to the current war on terror. The United States must strengthen and sustain its support of Afghanistan, we must continue in our commitment to this nation at this critical turning point. I am proud cosponsor of this legislation and I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 811.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ALLOWING EXCEPTION FROM \$1 COIN DISPENSING CAPABILITY REQUIREMENT

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3703) to amend section 5112(p)(1)(A) of title 31, United States Code, to allow an exception from the \$1 coin dispensing capability requirement for certain vending machines.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3703

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 5112(p)(1)(A) of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(A) any business operations conducted by any such agency, instrumentality, system, or entity that involve coins or currency will be fully capable of—

"(i) accepting \$1 coins in connection with such operations; and

"(ii) other than vending machines that do not receive currency denominations higher than \$1, dispensing \$1 coins in connection with such operations; and"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within

which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material therein.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3703. This is a very timely and important piece of legislation because as you may recall, the Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2005 requires retailers, including vending machines that are located on Federal property, to both accept and disburse \$1 coins by January of 2008. We are talking about 7 weeks from now. That brings about the urgency and the timeliness of the matter.

This requirement additionally applies to transit systems, military bases, and those that take Federal subsidies. Now, while most vending machines are already programmed and able to accept \$1 coins, there are very few that are programmed to dispense \$1 coins. So that is why this legislation is needed, to exempt those vending machines from dispensing requirements that do not have a reason to dispense the \$1 coins in the first place.

So that in effect, Mr. Speaker, if we do not pass this bill, we will have unintentionally affected a hindrance of the circulation of the coins by compelling them to be stored in vending machines that will never dispense them. This legislation targets machines that have only \$1 in currency and exchange. So you can see there will never be a need for the machine to dispense \$1 coins.

We believe that these Presidential \$1 coins are very important. They should be circulated. The public should circulate them, but certainly having them stored in a vending machine from which they will never be dispensed is not the way to do that. That is why we need this bill. I ask that the House urgently pass this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague from Georgia in support of this legislation. This legislation is simple and direct, and as my colleague stated, is necessary. It is basically a technical correction for the Presidential \$1 Coin Act enacted in December 2005. That bill sought to use the mechanism of a regularly changed design on the \$1 coin to draw that coin into circulation, and it had specific language directing that retail operations on Federal property, including vending machines, accept and dispense \$1 coins. It makes sense since the coin is an official form of U.S. exchange, and not to handle the coin would be inappropriate.

But certain vending machines, such as soda machines, only accept change and bank notes of no greater value than \$1. Logically, there would be no

reason for these machines to dispense a \$1 coin. To convert them to do so and to stock them with a stack of coins that never would be dispensed clearly would be unnecessary and not intended by the original bill.

Worse, as my friend from Georgia mentioned, oftentimes that cost for doing so would fall on our servicemen and women. So there really is no point to this change that was mandated, and we can easily fix that today.

Mr. Speaker, the language of this bill exempts solely those \$1 vending machines from the requirement to dispense \$1 coins. I urge all Members to support this bill, and I commend my colleague from Georgia for bringing this bill to the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I urge immediate passage of this bill and transmittal to the Senate.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3703.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD DECLARE LUNG CANCER A PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITY

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 335) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should declare lung cancer a public health priority and should implement a comprehensive inter-agency program to reduce the lung cancer mortality rate by at least 50 percent by 2015, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 335

Whereas lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women, accounting for 28 percent of all cancer deaths;

Whereas lung cancer kills more people annually than breast cancer, prostate cancer, colon cancer, liver cancer, melanoma, and kidney cancer combined;

Whereas, since the National Cancer Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-218; 85 Stat. 778), coordinated and comprehensive research has raised the 5-year survival rates for breast cancer to 88 percent, for prostate cancer to 99 percent, and for colon cancer to 64 percent;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for lung cancer is still only 15 percent and a similar coordinated and comprehensive research effort is required to achieve increases in lung cancer survivability rates;

Whereas 60 percent of lung cancer cases are now diagnosed in nonsmokers or former smokers;

Whereas 3/4 of nonsmokers diagnosed with lung cancer are women;

Whereas certain minority populations, such as Black males, have disproportionately high rates of lung cancer incidence and mortality, notwithstanding their lower smoking rate;

Whereas members of the baby boomer generation are entering their sixties, the most common age at which people develop cancer;

Whereas tobacco addiction and exposure to other lung cancer carcinogens such as Agent Orange and other herbicides and battlefield emissions are serious problems among military personnel and war veterans;

Whereas the August 2001 Report of the Lung Cancer Progress Review Group of the National Cancer Institute stated that funding for lung cancer research was "far below the levels characterized for other common malignancies and far out of proportion to its massive health impact";

Whereas the Report of the Lung Cancer Progress Review Group identified as its "highest priority" the creation of integrated, multidisciplinary, multi-institutional research consortia organized around the problem of lung cancer rather than around specific research disciplines; and

Whereas the United States must enhance its response to the issues raised in the Report of the Lung Cancer Progress Review Group: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes lung cancer as a public health priority and the importance of taking steps toward reducing the lung cancer mortality rate by at least half by 2015;

(2) acknowledges the importance of the recommendations of the Lung Cancer Progress Review Group of the National Cancer Institute;

(3) encourages increased investment for lung cancer research and other lung cancer-related programs;

(4) supports efforts to develop a broad-based lung cancer screening and disease management program among members of the Armed Forces and veterans; and

(5) recognizes the benefit of graduate medical education programs in thoracic medicine and cardiothoracic surgery.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 335, and I would like to thank the lead cosponsors of the resolution, ED WHITFIELD and DONNA CHRISTENSEN. I also wish to strongly commend the Lung Cancer Alliance and other organizations that have supported this resolution. I am so pleased